



Call for GIMM CARE Junior Clinician Grants 2025



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Introduction

We are pleased to announce the first call for **Junior Clinician Grants** in the context of the Gulbenkian Institute for Molecular Medicine (GIMM)'s Clinical and Translational research branch: CARE. CARE's major aim is to facilitate and expedite the early adoption of innovation in healthcare through ideas, technologies, products and services, serving as an independent platform for informed dialogue and collaboration between all stakeholders.

Objective

Junior Clinician Grants are aimed at **residents and junior specialists within 10 years of obtaining their medical degree (integrated Master's degree)**. Successful candidates will benefit from i) **funding to kick-start a clinical research project** and ii) **mentoring with a senior clinician and a researcher**.

Research Scope

Junior Clinician Grant research project ideas should consider the following CARE missions.

- **Mission 1. Pediatric and Rare diseases.** *Address critical healthcare gaps for pediatric and rare diseases.*
- **Mission 2. Cancer.** *Transform cancer into a manageable or curable condition.*
- **Mission 3. Inflammation and Infection.** *Develop transformative solutions that prevent and combat infectious diseases and immune-related conditions.*
- **Mission 4. Aging and Brain diseases.** *Promote healthier, longer lives and preservation of brain function.*
- **Mission 5. Cardiovascular diseases.** *Reduce the global burden of cardiovascular disease.*

Projects may also integrate the transversal theme of digital transformation in healthcare.

Mentoring

Each Junior Clinician will have two mentors:

- A. Clinician Mentor: Practicing Senior Clinician working in Portuguese healthcare.
- B. Researcher Mentor: Researcher affiliated with GIMM.

Role and expectations from the mentors:

- Co-develop and accompany the research project.
- Provide clinical or scientific advice.

- Participate in an initial kickoff meeting including the Junior Clinician, the two mentors and the CARE management team, which will take place within the first month of the project.
- Participate in regular feedback meetings of the two mentors with the Junior Clinician to discuss the progress of the research project (at least every 6 months).
- Participate in follow-up meetings with the CARE management team to discuss the research project, as needed.
- Participate in a final meeting with the CARE team program at the end of the project, to discuss experiences and collect feedback.

Reporting

- At the end of 1st year, a progress report signed by the Junior Clinician and the mentors should be submitted to the CARE management team.
- At the end of the grant, a final report should be submitted to the CARE management team.

Project Duration

Up to 18 months.

Funding

Successful proposals will be selected for financial and mentoring support. The total available funding for the call is three fellowships of up to 20,000 EUR per project. These funds are intended for allocation towards *Goods and Services (e.g. reagents, software); Equipment/Hardware Use of GIMM Scientific Platforms (costed as internal user), Travel, Demonstration, Promotion and Publication* as required. Apportionment of these funds will be contingent upon the merit and relevance of each project proposal, with express justification.

Note: funds cannot be transferred directly to another entity. Applicants should aim to make use of GIMM facilities, including conducting research at the Clinical and Translational Lab. IP will be shared with GIMM (see specific section of application form to indicate foreground and background IP – this agreement will be finalized upon award).

Eligibility

Junior Clinician Grant proposals are invited from individual practicing clinicians within 10 years of the date indicated on their medical degree certificate (integrated Master's degree). The eligibility period can be extended in line with documented periods of parental or other leave.

Submission Guidelines

Interested individuals are invited to submit their proposals, attaching the **completed template as a .pdf file**, and a **letter of support from the Head of the Clinical Department** by **1st December 2026** by email to care@gimm.pt.

Evaluation Process

The evaluation process will include the following steps:

1. Proposal documents evaluation:
Submissions will be scored by CARE team, plus invited evaluators where appropriate, against the following criteria:
Novelty, Clinical Relevance, Feasibility, Potential Impact.
2. Mentors' confirmation.
3. Collaboration agreement.

Important Dates

- Opening of 2025 CARE Junior Clinicians call: 3rd November 2025.
- Closing of 2025 CARE Junior Clinicians call: 1st December 2025.
- Communication of results: TBC.
- Grant start dates: To be confirmed together with awardees and mentors.

For any questions, please contact: care@gimm.pt

